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For the National Register.

RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

On Tuesday next, the fourth day of March, the present incumbent of the presidential office retires from the arduous duties of that exalted station. The character of his administration will be definitively fixed by the pen of posterity: but living, as we do, in the very period of his chief magistracy, we may be allowed to sketch, with a free and impartial pencil, the leading features of his political measures. It is not our intention to draw aside the veil which, in all affairs of state, in all communities, hides so many bad passions; nor yet to wound the pride of living vanity; we merely design, in as brief a way as possible, to do justice to a man who has had great opportunities of producing much of good or evil to his country.

To judge with candor the acts of Mr. Madison's administration, to give to each its proper degree of applause or reprobation, it is necessary to advert to the actual condition of public affairs at the period of his assuming the reins of authority. The wise policy adopted by General Washington, as declared in his proclamation of neutrality, in the year 1794, was steadily pursued by his successors, with the slight deviation of hostilities with France during Mr. Adams's presidency, up to the termination of Mr. Jefferson's political career. The mode, indeed, had been varied; but the measure of neutrality was always the same. Forbearance, remonstrance, and embargo, had followed each other in regular succession till the fourth day of March, 1809. Mr. Madison entered into office embarrassed by the Berlin decree, by the orders in council, and the famous rejoinder of Milan; as well as by the thousand perplexities, occasioned, towards the close of his predecessor's administration, by abortive attempts at reconciliation with the warring governments of Great Britain and France. Under these circumstances, relief was sought for American commerce and navigation in the substitution of a system of non-intercourse for that of embargo; and Erskine's arrangement, supposed to be the tardy effect of the latter, afforded a transient gleam of hope that the diplomatic alterations between the United States and European potentates, so dull, so fruitless, and so tiresome to the American people, would speedily find a termination, at least as it regarded England, in an honorable and advantageous peace. That gleam, however, was but transient; and the hope of pacification was crushed, and succeeded by three years of aggravated outrage upon our trad-

ing flag, of enormous depredations upon the floating property of our citizens, by diplomatic contumely in the person of the ambassador Jackson, and by a sneering supercilious indifference to our ministerial appeals at the court of London.

The substitution of the system of non-intercourse for the embargo, has, by many writers, been condemned as an imbecile measure: if it was, let it be recollect that it belonged to the councils of Mr. Jefferson, and not to those of Mr. Madison. And it may be, likewise, remarked, that there are good reasons for believing that neither embargo nor non-intercourse, of whatever duration, would have been effectual for enforcing our maritime rights.

Long trained, and well taught, in an enlightened school of free politics, Mr. Madison evinced a patience, with respect to belligerent aggression, which some individuals of romantic enterprise too readily mistook for cowardice of temper: but those who are well versed in the true nature of popular feeling, (and Mr. Madison is one of them) who are acquainted with its caprices, and know how easily it is perverted by the arts of demagogues in fashion, will form a different opinion of that singular discretion, which waited till the idea of national degradation had sunk deep into the minds of the American people, and become a sentiment of the heart; until it had roused their pride to a tone of vehemence, to a fervency of utterance, which gave strong assurance of a spirit that would sustain the privations and the perils, the taxation and personal services, inevitable in the event of a declaration of war. Whoever has noted the domestic incidents of our late contest with Great Britain, can now determine how essential it was that the freemen of the United States should have been profoundly imbued with a sense of their national wrongs. Nothing but the conviction of long-borne injuries, firmly stamped upon their understandings, and awakening their lively sensibilities, would have led them through that fiscal confusion, those sprinklings of treachery, and that rage of party, which prevailed from the year 1813 till the spring of the year 1815. To use an extreme figure, Mr. Madison, by forbearing to recommend that the sword of the republic should be drawn, until it was ready to leap from its scabbard, secured the hearty good wishes of the timorous, as well as the active co-operation of the brave. He was deserted alone by the crafty stockjobber and the political intriguant.

But, although Mr. Madison displayed no eagerness to recommend a declaration of war, he was

not inattentive to objects, which, in case of war, were calculated to guard the nation against the dangers incident to it. We pass over those preparatory measures, the nature of which may be easily learnt from the acts of Congress; and draw the particular attention of the reader to that judicious step which ensured us the possession of West Florida, as far east as the river Perdido. The penetration of the President is proverbial. It is chiefly by the faculty of a long foresight that he has been enabled to compass so many things of great advantage to the nation. He early discerned, should hostilities occur between the United States and Great Britain, and which, in the year 1810, were extremely probable, the necessity of occupying the entire of East and West Florida, in order to prevent the enemy from entering the territory of the Union by that frontier. That the policy and expediency of such occupation were sound and correct, the massacre at Fort Mims, the desolating Indian warfare on our south-western border, and the memorable victories of General Jackson, will sufficiently attest. The future historian will discover, that if Spain still held possession of a portion of West Florida, and of the whole of the eastern province of that name, during the late war with Great Britain, if the Spanish authorities, throughout the whole of that contest, supplied the hostile Creeks with munitions of war, afforded them a military asylum, and allowed the British to penetrate the waters under the jurisdiction of his Catholic majesty in that quarter, for the purpose of annoying the citizens of the United States, it was not the fault of Mr. Madison. The secret executive journal of the Senate, we are confident, will show, that, in this respect, his intentions were highly patriotic, his recommendations wise, and his efforts characterized by the utmost energy of official influence.

While the foreign affairs of the United States were involved in the most complicated difficulties, from which it defied the united force of patience, humility, and reason, to extricate them, because those difficulties were occasioned by arbitrary edicts which had their source in the overweening ambition and deadly animosity of two rival, rich, and powerful empires, the stability of Mr. Madison's administration was shaken at home, by two factions which reigned in his cabinet. They originated in views of personal aggrandizement, and were both founded in erroneous conceptions of the true character of the President. Each conceived, from the mildness of Mr. Madison's manners, that his mind was nerveless; and, allowing him to be an excellent logician, they denied him the merits and reputation of a practical statesman. This mistake, common to both the hostile factions, was the cause of their ruin. The prompt dismissal

from office of the most prominent man of one of the schismatic factions, and the counteracting the acknowledged leader of the other, by introducing into the department of state an individual, who, notwithstanding he labored under some disadvantages, had a name for probity and considerable talents with his countrymen, shattered at once the mechanism of factious intrigue, and neutralized a gloomy and growing spirit of discontent among the people. This dexterity of management may satisfy us, that, if Mr. Madison is not a political Hercules, he is altogether superior to those pygmies who, by attempting to govern him, have sought to degrade his fame. We pursue this point of the administration no further; but time, which, to the facts that constitute the annals of mankind, is the spear of Ithuriel, will, at a proper season, give to every incident its genuine complexion. It is but just, nevertheless, to observe, how great a disadvantage Mr. Madison has labored under from which Mr. Jefferson was wholly exempt. It was the good fortune of this latter gentleman to retain, in the superior executive departments, the same persons who entered into office with him in the year 1801, until the period of his retirement; whereas Mr. Madison has been compelled, by unavoidable circumstances, to change his secretaries often; so that there is not, at this day, a cabinet minister who enjoyed a situation in the government in March, 1809. He who is acquainted with the distractions which subordinate statesmen may create in political society, through the medium of an unexpired, although expiring, popularity, can best calculate the dangers to which a President is exposed, who lays the hand of expulsion upon the head of a proud and assuming secretarial incumbent.

The foreign relations of the United States at length reached a point which rendered it necessary to apply to them the same talisman which Alexander applied to the Gordian knot. The perplexities in which they were involved could only be overcome by the sword. It is unnecessary here to recite the unredressed grievances which America suffered from both Great Britain and France: they were too much felt, and are too well known, to require in this place, at this time, a recapitulation. Let it suffice, that both these powers had furnished, by their illegal conduct, more than a just occasion for hostilities against them. A discussion of the question, *which of these two nations was it politic to declare war against in the year 1812?* would lead us into an argument of too much detail for the scope of this article; but we do not hesitate to deliver our own opinion, that the war was properly declared against Great Britain alone. France was intangible, except in a very slight degree, to either our military or naval arm; whilst

Great Britain exposed to the enterprise and valor of our citizens, a wide and valued domain in her North American provinces, and a theatre for glorious and profitable nautical adventure on every sea of the globe. This consideration was, doubtless, decisive in the selection of an enemy; and the enemy once selected, it was natural that the United States should seize the most favorable moment for placing themselves in the attitude of a belligerent. Accordingly, we find that the period of the emperor Napoleon's march into Russia, with half a million of troops and followers, was chosen as the most auspicious time for the commencement of hostilities on our part. Whether or not there was an understanding on this head between the American and French executives, is very doubtful: if there was, it must have been verbal, and profoundly secret; and written evidence of it will certainly never appear. But if there was not, Mr. Madison would have been much to blame.—The vulgar abuse lavished upon him in the political journals of the day, for a supposed bias to the interests of France in preference to those of England, and particularly in the declaration of war in the year 1812, has always, in our mind, appeared as a real eulogium. There are even solid reasons, to be drawn from the first principles of human nature and society, and sanctioned by the experience of ages, why the United States should forever exercise a jealous vigilance towards the British government and its policy. France, who had deeply wronged us, was not, indeed, in 1812, more deserving of our friendly regards than Great Britain; but in entering upon hostilities with the latter, it would have been the height of folly not to have availed ourselves of the influence and the force of the former.

The beginning of the war, on our part, was marked, on the land, by the ill-omened disasters which terminated the expedition of General Hull. The choice of that commander, who falsified, in his old age, the reputation for courage and capacity which he had earned in his younger days, was undoubtedly censurable in Mr. Madison, who, had he listened, in this instance, less to advisers, and confided more in his own sagacity, would have postponed General Hull for a leader of more military vigor. This appointment was a capital error of the President's administration, and the evil consequences of it were felt throughout the contest. Hull entered Upper Canada with a flaming proclamation, denouncing destruction to the enemies, and promising protection to the friends, of the American cause. He fulfilled neither the one nor the other. He suffered himself to be tamely driven back upon Detroit, where he surrendered the town and the army; thus leaving the Canadians who were friendly to us exposed to British ven-

geance, and laying open the north-western frontier to the desolating incursions of those roving bands of Indians and Britons, who have perpetuated for themselves a name of transcendent infamy by their horrible massacre of prisoners of war at the river Raisin. The effect of General Hull's defeat was felt along the whole extent of the lakes, from Superior to Ontario; and the persevering valor and improved discipline of our troops on that line had but just retrieved the character of our armies, and reanimated the public mind of America, so late in the war as the summer of 1814. Many losses, and much calamity, had compelled the President to purify the land forces from imbecility and bombast; and the autumn of that year exhibited as gallant and accomplished a band of officers and soldiers as the world ever saw.

The temporary despondency occasioned by the defeat of General Hull, was, in some degree, removed by the unexpected success of our gallant little navy. To the astonishment and mortification of the British empire, their frigates were beaten, even-handed, on their favorite element of warfare. Whatever regrets may have been occasioned by our reverses on land, there was every reason for rejoicing at our triumphs on the ocean; and the navy department, in its belligerent operations, seems wholly to have surpassed the expectations of the world.

Not a great while after the surrender of Gen. Hull, and whilst the minds of the people were still thoughtfully fixed on the catastrophe produced by the inefficiency of that ill-fated chief, a secession took place in the cabinet, of so much the more consequence as it tended to disorder the vital sinews of war. Mr. Gallatin, the secretary of the treasury, accepted, and, we have no doubt, sought, the appointment of commissioner to negotiate for peace under the proffered mediation of the Emperor of Russia. This was a finesse, on the part of the secretary, extremely well calculated to prostrate the administration, and to prevent a vigorous prosecution of the war. To comprehend with clearness the effect of this secession upon the welfare of the state, it is necessary to consider that Mr. Gallatin had for twelve years been the principal officer of the treasury department: a long continued peace, a profitable commerce for the greater part of the time, and a flourishing revenue arising from the duties on imports and tonnage, had enabled him to manage the fiscal concerns of the government with ease, and to acquire for himself a reputation for great financial abilities. This reputation, together with a certain degree of confidence, which he derived, among men of monied capital, from the circumstance of his having advocated the renewal of the charter of the Bank of the United States, render-

ed him almost the only person in the Union who was competent to procure, at a reasonable rate of interest, the loans of which the government, it was foreseen, would frequently stand in need. By withdrawing himself, therefore, Mr. Gallatin left the national treasury to a successor, who, whatever might be his general capacity, would have a great deal of fiscal information to obtain, and a reputation to establish with individuals who had money to lend, before he could be of that usefulness to the country which Mr. Gallatin might have produced without the loss of time, and without the least labor or difficulty. New obstacles to the procuring of funds for the prosecution of the war were in this manner interposed, and the result corresponded with the artifice of the seceding secretary. What Mr. Gallatin's real motives were for retreating from the cabinet at the period he did, have not been very obvious. The writer of this article knows, from an authentic source, that he was vehemently opposed to the war. He regarded the constitution of the government as too feeble to sustain a conflict with Great Britain; he was conscious that there really existed no system of finance equal to the exigency; and he was aware that he had a reputation to lose. If we may be allowed a conjecture, we should say, that he escaped from the treasury department, in order that his predictions as to the febleness of the constitution in case of hostilities might be verified; to preserve his fame as a financier; and, above all, to avenge himself on the administration for his disappointment in not attaining a higher office than that which he had so long occupied, at which he had previously aimed, and which had been snatched from him, as he thought, through the fears of the president, at the moment that he imagined himself sure of it. These motives, it is true, are not the most pure; but we must judge men's actions, not by a mere ideal conception of excellence, but by the inclination of their well known appetites and passions. Mr. Madison was, we think, to blame in suffering Mr. Gallatin to withdraw. He ought to have refused to send him to St. Petersburg, and to have reduced him to the dilemma of either exerting himself, and using his knowledge and influence for the benefit of the nation during the war, or of retiring, in an unqualified manner, and thus to have confessed, in the face of the republic, his inability to fulfil the duties of a station to which it had been so long supposed he had peculiar claims.

We trust the reader will here pardon a short episode in behalf of a man, who, occupying the post of secretary of the treasury as successor to Mr. Gallatin, has been, by far, too hastily condemned. George Washington Campbell is not, perhaps, possessed of the brightest intellectual

faculties; but his talents are greatly above mediocrity. It is not because he is so much beneath Mr. Gallatin in his fiscal capacity that he did not rise higher in the public estimation. At the period when he took upon himself the task of supporting the credit of the government, no man could have succeeded better than he did. The national funds had depreciated, and were still sinking in value: the treasury was surrounded by stock-jobbers, who knew that money must be procured, and they resolved to speculate upon the necessities of the country. In this condition of affairs, the actual secretary of the treasury was completely at their mercy. He was obliged to submit to the terms they dictated, and they played the usurer without compunction or remorse. The clamorous demands of those to whom the public were indebted, on the one hand, and the cupidity of the stock-jobbers on the other, shook to its centre the credit of the Union; and the unreflecting mass of men ascribed that to the want of abilities which was solely the result of necessity. An individual who should attempt to stop the career of a team of horses going down hill at full speed, without a rein to check them, would run the risk of being killed; but if he waited until the animals had exhausted their strength, he might arrest and guide them without danger. Mr. Campbell accepted the post of secretary of the treasury when the credit of the United States was rapidly decreasing; and in so doing he evinced more of a patriotic indifference to consequences than of a selfish discretion. About the time he retired from his post the stock-jobbers were gorged with wealth, and they became anxious to secure, by *embanking*, their spoils. They caused a reaction. Mr. Dallas came into office, and stood forth their friend, and the unflinching advocate for a national bank. That he had talents none will deny; yet they were neither so towering nor so pre-eminent as to obliterate the virtues of Mr. Campbell, whose intentions were good, and who, at the period of either Mr. Gallatin's or Mr. Dallas's occupation of the place of secretary, would have been fully equal to any thing they have performed.

We have no desire to question the abilities of Albert Gallatin: he is a well-informed and a cunning man: but in deciding upon the frailty of our national constitution, he overlooked the spirit of the people of America; which is capable of supplying many defects in that instrument, and of correcting the pernicious blunders of their representatives. Without such a spirit, any constitution would be less valuable than the parchment upon which it is written. Nor do we mean to contend that the mission in pursuit of peace—the political pilgrimage to the favorite city of Peter the Great—was a measure to be reprehended in Mr. Madison.

It had its uses. It served to convince the American people that the great object of their government was peace; and that if the war was prolonged, it was not continued by the vices of their rulers. To impress such a truth upon the minds of the community was gaining something; for it induced the citizens to bear with more cheerfulness the tedium and pressure of protracted hostilities.

The war, like most wars, was characterized by many vicissitudes of good and evil fortune. It redounds much to the honor of the American name, that the frightful reverses which attended the expedition of the emperor Napoleon to Russia, and the subsequent abdication of that singular personage, which placed Great Britain at the head of the powers of Europe, and left her free to combat, with all her resources, the United States, did not shake the courage of the freemen of the Union, whose firmness and constancy proved a match for the utmost efforts of the whole British empire. One blow, indeed, which our enemy gave us, severely touched the pride of America. The capture of the city of Washington occasioned a painful sensation, the shame of which it will take many years to obliterate. For this misfortune we do not undertake to say that Mr. Madison is absolutely culpable; but we are not so much the slaves of panegyric as to declare that he was altogether blameless. It was for him to choose the commander who was to guard the metropolis and the only virgin capital in the world. The subject is delicate, and we do not intend to pursue it far: Yet we will boldly assert, in contradiction of the gross flattery of the Kentuckians by Commodore Barney, that Washington was not lost by the cowardice of the Maryland militia. The cause of the disaster lay a little deeper; probably beyond the reach of the commodore's percipient faculty, but still within the ken of an ordinary intellectual eyesight. We have no disposition to disturb the sweets and endearments of a political honey-moon, nor yet to pourtray the germs of growing corruption, to people who too fatally believe their constitutional atmosphere to be exempt from every sort of impurity, or we might unmask the truth in this particular, and convince the public how little they know of real history who confide in the delusive testimony of public documents. To those who sleep when they should watch, we will say, in the language of the gospel, *sleep on.* And we might add, in the gay and licentious words of a French writer, *since mankind were born to be cheated, why should we warn them of their danger?* All this, however, has no direct reference to Mr. Madison's administration: so let us resume the general theme under consideration.

Mortified pride is terrible in its reaction. Woe

to the man or to the chieftain who wounds the delicacy of a refined genius or the proud temper of a gallant nation! The blaze from the capital, like the sacred *oriflamme* of the French, was a signal for rallying to its standard the undaunted hearts of the republic. The yeomanry of the commonwealth poured, chafing, from their mountains, and the coldest breast in opposition to the war throbbed for vengeance upon an invader, from whose violence neither the church, nor literature, nor the works of art were hallowed. The British commander, sensible of the perils by which he was surrounded, hastily fled to his ships for shelter, leaving his wounded to the humanity of the Americans. However Mr. Madison may be implicated in the censure incident to the loss of the metropolis, he is liable to no severity of criticism on account of his conduct after that event. He was seen among the foremost, resolutely refusing to parley with the foe, (whose flag waved in insolent triumph over the Potomac) and energetically rallying his countrymen to battle, invoking them by the renown of their fathers, in a proclamation whose style would not have dishonored the pen of Tacitus. From this epoch the people and the army appeared to receive new life. Mars himself seemed every where to favor our banner; and the war closed with the shout of victory, long and loud, echoing and re-echoing from lake Champlain to the river Mississippi.

The treaty of Ghent put an end to hostilities; and the lazy and querulous politician was left to inquire, *what have we gained?* We certainly did not regain the nine hundred and seventeen ships and their cargoes, which were torn from us by the arbitrary conduct of the British prior to the war. But they were mere property—valuable it is true; yet which may be easily replaced by active industry and persevering enterprise. We gained *honor*; more precious than goods, or chattels, or transient life. *Honor*, (that canting hypocrites affect to treat with scorn) which is a thrice tempered shield of protection. *Honor*, the warden of woman, the moral mailed armor of man, the conservative principle of nations. Yes! we have gained that *honor* which invites respect; which intimidates the brazen front of outrage; and will compel foreign governments hereafter to calculate beforehand the inconveniences and the price of injustice.

Peace having been restored to the country, it only remained for Mr. Madison to gather up the fragments occasioned by the war. These were chiefly of a financial description, and a national bank was supposed to be essential to the proper regulation of the currency and the fiscal operations of the treasury. We have seen a bank of the United States instituted. It is by many ap-

plauded; by some condemned. Above all, Mr. Madison has been assailed, with an unbecoming degree of virulence, for approving the act which incorporates the institution. A national bank is said not to be allowable, because it is unconstitutional. The writer of this article has little faith in any form of words, as a preservative of the rights of the people. Human language is not sufficiently susceptible of being fixed to a specific meaning, to render it prudent or safe too much to rely upon it as a protection for public liberty. But if the meaning of words were as immutable as the laws of nature, the silence of the constitution relative to the incorporation of banking companies would not seem to justify a refusal to grant a charter, if the welfare of the community required it. It has been often said that *the voice of the people is the voice of God*. Perhaps a less equivocal axiom may be found in the assertion, that *the good of the people ought to be the object of their rulers*. If a national bank is indispensable to the public and private interests of society, the legislature, in refusing to establish one, would adhere to an ideal exception, from which nothing useful could result, and would abandon the main object for which government was organized. If Mr. Madison formerly opposed a bank of the United States, and now sanctions one, that only proves that he has changed his opinion; a circumstance too common with all men to authorize a serious charge of political heresy against him.

We have now traced Mr. Madison, with a rapid pencil, through the leading measures of his administration. We have not thought the commercial convention worthy of comment. It is short lived, and can produce but little of benefit or injury. Let us hasten to conclude. President Madison entered upon his office with an embarrassed diplomacy, a declining treasury, with foreign quarrels in prospective, and domestic feuds engendering among his cabinet associates. He retires, after having simplified and arranged the port-folio of foreign affairs, fought out and removed external hostility—(the squabble with Spain is, in simple verity, “much ado about nothing”)—dissipated or stifled home-bred animosities, and re-established the finances upon a solid foundation. That he has erred, is not to be doubted; but his errors have not greatly, and but temporarily, affected the general interests of the nation. His successor ascends the car of state in happy hour, when the political steeds are disposed to move with gentleness under an easy rein. On Mr. Madison's tomb it may be inscribed, *Here lies a man of abilities, who attained, by the dint of his talents, the highest office in the government of his country, the vindicator of whose rights he was: discreet, penetrating, dextrous, and wise, he truly un-*

derstood the art of governing by parties, and was as honest a statesman as the sordid claims of importunate friendships and the knavery of demagogues would permit him to be.

City of Washington,
March 1, 1817.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

Message from the President to the Senate of the United States:

I transmit to the Senate a report of the secretary of state, complying with their resolution of the 20th instant.

JAMES MADISON.

Feb. 22, 1817.

Department of State, Feb. 22, 1817.

The secretary of state, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 20th instant, requesting “the president to lay before the Senate a copy of the correspondence between the government of the United States and the government of Spain, relative to the subjects of controversy between the two nations, except such parts as he may deem improper to disclose,” has the honor to submit to the president the accompanying papers, marked A, B, and C, as containing the information which is supposed to be wanted.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. MONROE.

(A)

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State to the Chevalier de Onis, dated

Department of State, Jan. 14, 1817.

Sir,—Having understood, in our late conference, that you would not agree to an arrangement, by which Spain should cede her claims to the territory eastward of the Mississippi, unless the United States ceded their claims to all the territory westward of that river, and that, even then, your agreement would be restricted to a recommendation to your government to adopt an arrangement to that effect; it is deemed unnecessary to make you any further proposition, or to prolong the negociation on the subject of limits.

I have now to request that you will have the goodness to inform me whether you are willing to enter into a convention to provide compensation for spoliations, and for the injury resulting to the United States from the suppression of the deposite at New-Orleans.

I have the honor to be, &c.
JAMES MONROE.

[Translation.]

Mr. Onis to the Secretary of State.

January 16, 1817.

Sir,—I have received your official letter of the 14th inst. in which you are pleased to make known to me, that, having understood in our last conference, that I would not accede to an arrangement, by which Spain should cede her pretensions to the territory east of the Mississippi, if the United States did not relinquish theirs to the west of that river, and that, even in this case, my accession would be limited to recommending to my government the adoption of this project, it appeared to you useless to make me more propositions to pro-

long the negociation on the subject of limits between the two governments; and you only desired to know if I was disposed to sign a convention, to provide compensation for the injuries occasioned to the United States by the cruisers of his majesty in the late war, and for those which resulted to the United States from the suppression of the deposite at New-Orleans.

In answer to this letter, you will permit me to observe, that, in the conference referred to, I had the honor to exhibit to you the full powers of my sovereign, in which he authorizes me to negotiate, adjust and sign a treaty, or convention, with the United States, in which should be arranged not only the indemnities due to the subjects and citizens of both nations, for the injuries they had suffered from the last war between his majesty and Great Britain to the present, in contravention of the law of nations, and the existing treaty between the two powers, but also to fix the respective limits to the satisfaction of both. The intention of his majesty (and in this I believe the two governments agree) is not confined to a partial arrangement, which might leave in existence the disagreements which have unhappily arisen between them from the effect of circumstances. His majesty, fully convinced that no treaty or convention can be durable, unless it is founded in equality and mutual convenience, has particularly directed me, that, keeping in mind the reciprocal, political and commercial interests which unite the two nations, I should so adjust the definitive arrangement with the person whom the president should authorize to that effect, that no controversy could ever again arise between them.

I cannot conceal from you, that, to arrive at this end, it is indispensable to begin by amicably discussing and agreeing upon the rights of each of the two powers, and that the result of this discussion is, what ought to guide us in arranging the indemnities and fixing the limits which may be just and mutually convenient to the two nations. You had the goodness to say to me, that this method had been adopted by you and Mr. Cevallos, and that, if we renewed it, precious time would be lost without our being able to agree. In such a dilemma, and anxious to contribute on my part to accelerate the negociation, I took the liberty to propose to you the only other method which appeared to me to exist, besides the one which I have just mentioned, to arrange these differences, which is this: that the two powers, throwing off all idea of aggrandizement, and sacrificing resentments and complaints of little importance, should proceed, with good faith, to fix limits between them which would be mutually convenient, which should not be liable to controversy, or be unknown to, or violated by, the respective subjects of each.

You did me the honor to applaud a proposition so frank and liberal, as dictated by equity and good faith; and made known to me, with the same frankness, that the United States desired to unite to its dominions all the territories which belong to Spain to the east of the Mississippi; and that, for them, they would offer to Spain those which were between the Rio del Norte and the Colorado. But as not only these lands, but all those which lie between the Colorado and Cape North, drawing a line by the river Marmento, or Mermenao, towards the Presidio of Adais, and from thence by the Arroyo Onda towards Natchitoches, are a part of the province of Texas, be-

longing to, and in the uninterrupted possession of his majesty, without there having been, in relation thereto, any dispute between France and Spain, that dispute being solely as to Natchitoches, which fort the French raised, unjustly, in the territory of his catholic majesty: it results that this proposition not only does not offer compensation to his majesty for West and East Florida, whose cession the United States intimate would be very agreeable to them, but it involves the relinquishment of the property and possession which his majesty has of the territory in the province of Texas, which lies between the Colorado and the vicinity of Natchitoches.

To propositions so distant from the equality and reciprocal convenience in which we have agreed to treat these affairs, I answered, that, as the powers of his majesty had been hastily sent to me, by Mr. Cevallos, to take advantage of the departure of Mr. Brent, I have not received express instructions touching the entire cession of the two Floridas, which the United States wished: and, although they prove to me the desire of his majesty to accommodate them in all arrangements which may be compatible with his interests, I saw myself obliged to wait for instructions on this point, of so much the greater importance, as it relates to the cession by his majesty to the United States of the port of Pensacola, which was the key of the Gulf of Mexico, the best port of that Gulf, and which was the more necessary to his majesty for the security of his possessions; but that, in the mean time, if you should propose to me, on the part of this government, to make the Mississippi the frontier, I should see in that proposition a disposition on the part of the United States to offer some equivalent, and I would recommend it to the consideration of his majesty as a fixed and stable limit, to assure the peace and tranquility of the two nations.

I hope that you will recognize in this exposition the sincerity and ingenuousness with which I proceed, and that you will, on a view of it, adopt, of the two modes proposed for setting on foot the negociation, that which will be most agreeable to the United States. The first, that is to say, that of discussing and agreeing upon the reciprocal rights and pretensions of the two nations, is the safest, and that which ought to conduct us, with the greatest precision, to the indemnities and to the establishment of limits between them, since nothing is more easy than that, each point of justice being agreed upon, the equivalent to it should be arranged upon principles of equality and reciprocal convenience. The second is shorter, but it requires a relinquishment of all views of aggrandizement on both sides, and that each government, adopting as a basis the *uti possidetis*, either of the year 1792, which is the one fixed on by the allied courts in the general pacification for the recognition of the right of property in their possessions, or that of the year 1763, after the conclusion of the treaty of peace between Spain, France and England, in which treaty the limits of their provinces were fixed, and the two Floridas were separated, the East from Spain and the West from France, by transferring them in full sovereignty to England, they may come to a just and friendly understanding, so as to do away these disagreements. I am ready to discuss with you in the first mode just referred to. I am, also, ready to treat with you by adopting the second; and I flatter myself that I shall, in either case, give you

proofs that I will not depart from what is due to justice, equity, and the mutual convenience of the two nations.

I renew to you, &c.

LUIS DE ONIS.

Copy of a letter from the Secretary of State to the Chevalier de Onis, dated

Department of State, Jan. 25, 1817.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 16th, in reply to mine of the 14th of this month.

It having been the invariable desire of the United States to settle all differences with Spain on just and fair conditions; it is seen, with much regret, that a similar disposition is not manifested on the part of your government.

Finding, by your letter, that I had distinctly understood the views of your government, as explained by you in our late conference, and stated in my last letter; and perceiving also that you still adhere to those views, which, being altogether inconsistent with the rights of the United States, are inadmissible; I have to repeat that this government has no motive to continue the negotiation on the subject of boundaries.

In making this frank declaration, I cannot avoid expressing my surprise that you should now find it necessary to refer again to your government for instructions on any part of this subject. These differences have long existed, and, as far back as 1805, were fully discussed, as you readily admitted, in every circumstance appertaining to, or connected with them, in a special mission to Madrid for the purpose. It was hoped and expected, on the restoration of the diplomatic intercourse between the two nations, that you would have been invested with full power to settle them; and, it was in accord with your views, when this was found not to be the case, that the requisite authority was given to the minister plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid. It could not have been doubted, as your government had not authorized its minister here to bring these controversies to a conclusion, that the minister of the United States would have been promptly met in his offers to effect it at Madrid. I need not repeat to you the great disappointment which the president felt, when, after the lapse of so much time, he was informed that an expression of regret in my letter to you of the 10th of June, at the delay resulting from your want of powers, and from the necessity of transferring the negotiation to Madrid, had been misconstrued into a desire that it should be transferred again to the United States. On examining, however, the tenor of your commission, and the communications between Mr. Erving and Mr. Cevallos, both of which seemed to contemplate a prompt conclusion of the business here; the idea now brought forward in your letter, of a further resort to your government for other instructions, was surely the last to enter into the anticipations of this government.

It is proper to add, that I understood you to coincide, in our late conference, fully with me in the sentiment, that any further discussion of subjects which had been already so often discussed and completely exhausted, would be useless, since it could not be presumed that any change of opinion on any point would take place on either side. Each party understands its rights, and has, doubtless, made up its mind as to the conditions it is willing to adopt. To those suggested by you, as

being worthy the consideration of your government, this government cannot agree.

Under these circumstances, I have again to request that you will do me the honor to inform me, whether you are willing to conclude a convention, to provide indemnity for spoliations, and the suppression of the deposite at New-Orleans, as mentioned in my last letter.

I have the honor to be,

With the most perfect consideration,
Sir, your very obedient servant,
JAMES MONROE.

[Translation.]

Mr. Onis to the Secretary of State.

10th February, 1817.

SIR—I have received the official letter which you did me the honor to address to me, under the date of the 25th of last month, stating that, notwithstanding the desire the president had to adjust all differences between Spain and the United States on just conditions, and to their mutual convenience, it was seen, with great regret, that a like disposition was not manifested on the part of Spain.

You support this opinion on the ground that I adhere to the same sentiments which my government manifested in former times; and also, that the president, seeing the powers with which his majesty had been pleased to honor me, could not comprehend why I should think it necessary to recur to my sovereign to obtain new instructions. You will permit me to observe, that the number of privateers armed in the ports of this country, to cruise under an unknown flag against Spanish commerce, have obstructed in such a manner the communications between the peninsula and these states, that the accidental circumstance of Mr. Brent's having taken charge of the duplicates of his majesty's powers, has alone obtained for me the receipt of them, and that I am even yet without the originals: with which, doubtless, his majesty sent me instructions, and communicated to me his reasons for transferring the negotiation here. I can assure you I am entirely ignorant of what has passed in Madrid between Mr. Erving and Mr. Cevallos, and that I am not less so of the motives which have induced his majesty to transfer the discussion here, notwithstanding I had informed him, that I had myself proposed to you that authority and instructions should be given to Mr. Erving in relation to it; it being clear to me, that his majesty desired nothing with more anxiety than to see an affair terminated, which must be the precursor of reciprocal intimacy, which should be established between the two governments, for the mutual benefit of their respective subjects and citizens.

If I might be permitted to conjecture the motives which have induced his majesty to transfer the negotiation here, I believe I should not mistake in designating, as the principal one of them, the knowledge his majesty has of your talents, of your justice, (justification) and of the conciliatory disposition which you manifested in your conferences with Mr. Cevallos, to concur in the settlement of these discussions; and, as the second, this: that, in the moment of the arrival of the queen, his august spouse, on all the festivities incident to this happy event, his majesty could not give the attention which was requisite to these affairs, which he considered of the first importance. You are too just not to appreciate these

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motives, and not to see in them any thing but a new proof of the anxiety of his majesty to avoid all delay or inactivity. The president, informed by you of these motives, will, I flatter myself, form the same opinion, and see the necessity of my waiting for the necessary instructions from my sovereign, before I subscribe to the points which ought to form the basis of this treaty. The short delay which may result from this, will be amply compensated for, and with mutual advantage, if you would place me in a situation to inform my government of the principal points on which the government of the United States wish to see this negotiation turn. You know that as yet you have only made known to me, in our first conference, that if we were to go into a discussion of the rights of the two powers, as was done by you and Mr. Cevallos, much time would be lost, and each of us would retain his opinion. You know that I agreed to this; but at the same time intimated that I saw no other more certain mode of accomplishing the object which the two powers had in view, since it must be with a knowledge of the respective rights of each party that we ought to begin in fixing the indemnities and compensations, which belonged to each, on the principles of equity, justice, and convenience; and that the only way of avoiding this, and of shortening the negotiation, would be, that the two powers, giving up all pretensions and all idea of rivalry or aggrandizement, should agree between themselves, in good faith, to fix their limits according to equity, justice, and mutual convenience, so that they should not be liable to be violated by the subjects of the one or the other, and in a way to avoid the renewal of the complaints which had given rise to misunderstandings. You approved an idea so liberal, so generous and so demonstrative of the disposition of the king, my master, to accommodate the United States in whatever might be agreeable to them, if not incompatible with his interests; and, in consequence, you made known to me that the United States wished to unite to their dominions the two Floridas. As, in the former negotiations, the cession of West Florida, to the Rio Perdido, was alone spoken of, and as his majesty was ignorant of the new desires of this government, I said to you, that although I did not positively know whether his majesty would deprive himself of East Florida, and of the important port of Pensacola, which was the key of the Gulf of Mexico, yet the desire of his majesty to gratify this government was great, and that it was very probable he might agree to do it, provided that, on the part of the United States, there should be offered to him a just equivalent, and one of reciprocal convenience.

I leave to your impartiality and justice, and to that of the whole world, to say, if, on the part of his majesty, a more positive proof is wanting of the interest which he takes in arranging these affairs in a friendly manner, and, if I should not find myself more authorized to doubt of equal dispositions on the part of the United States, in consequence of the proposition which you made me, not only of not giving any thing in exchange for the two provinces, the cession of which the United States desire, but requiring that his majesty should cede to them a part of another, which has been in the uninterrupted possession of his majesty for more than two hundred years.

I am, nevertheless, very far from judging it thus. A firm and permanent arrangement of all points of

difference, is equally useful and necessary to both nations. It ought to fix the basis of the happiness of their respective subjects and citizens; and, to obtain this, it ought necessarily to be founded in justice, equity and mutual convenience. His majesty is disposed to conclude it on these terms; and he has too much confidence in the well known rectitude of this administration to think that it could solicit it on other terms.

You are pleased also to inform me, in your esteemed note, that to the propositions which I have suggested as worthy of the consideration of my government, that of the United States cannot agree; and that, abandoning the arrangement of limits, you desire only to know if I am disposed to sign a convention for settling the injury sustained by the American commerce, and by the suppression of the deposite at New-Orleans.

As the propositions which I have made to you were confined solely to the leaving to your election whether we should treat, by discussing and fixing in a friendly manner the respective rights of each power, to the end that, having agreed to them, and the obligations of each upon the other being known, the compensation to which each may be entitled might be settled: or that, leaving things to remain in the state they were, we might agree in a friendly manner as to what would suit each. I cannot conceive that the United States should be of opinion that they cannot agree to any of these points.

I would offend my own delicacy if, after being assured by you that the United States were disposed to terminate all the differences which exist between the two nations by a treaty founded on justice, equity, and mutual convenience, I could believe that the United States would repel the only means which, in my opinion, exist to arrive at this end. I judge, then, that I have not explained myself with sufficient clearness, or that I have not well comprehended you; and I again renew my propositions in a plain, clear and demonstrative manner, giving you an example which you cannot but find just.

Let us suppose (and it is a very proper supposition) that you and I are intimate friends; you have purchased an estate adjoining one of mine; (I do not now inquire whether you purchased it from a person who had a right to sell it or not—but you purchased it;) and, be it because some officious person said so, or because you thought so, you were of opinion that there was included in this purchase a part of my estate, which I worked, took care of, and possessed. As soon as you had made this purchase, and observed that possession was not given you of the land I worked, and which you believed to belong to you, you asked me to give it up to you. I observed to you that it was mine, that the land which you had purchased had also belonged to me formerly, that I had ceded it to him who had sold it such as he had delivered it, and in no greater extent; and that, consequently, he could not transfer to you more than I had given to him. You and I refer to the seller, and he tells us that he never sold the land to you which you require, and never obtained it from me, nor had an intention of acquiring it. Notwithstanding this declaration, which is decisive and irrevocable, I, from motives of friendship for you, and to do away all doubt on the point, propose to you that we should discuss the affair in a friendly manner, and assure you, that if you present to me unquestionable documents to prove

that it belongs to you, I am ready to give it up. I ask you, dispassionately, if this proposition could be considered as inadmissible. I go further. I, who am anxious to accommodate you, because you are my friend and a good neighbor, knowing that you desire to get part of my territory to round out yours, and to facilitate the exportation of your produce, as there is a navigable river passing through it, carry my friendship and conciliation so far as to say to you, that we will agree between ourselves, by a friendly investigation, what belongs to each; and, this being settled, I am ready to cede to you the lands you desire, for an equivalent founded in equity, justice, and reciprocal convenience, fixing the limits between us in such a way that our servants should not engage us in quarrels and contests, as, it being our desire to live in the greatest harmony, we were equally interested in avoiding every subject of difference. Will you say to me that these friendly propositions are inadmissible? I believe not. Such, then, neither more nor less, are those which I have suggested to you in my former official note, and renew to you by this, hoping that, taking them into serious consideration, you will view them as just, equitable, and even generous.

You cannot but know that the convention you propose, limited to the indemnification for injuries done to the American commerce, by the cruisers and tribunals of Spain, and by the suppression of the deposits at New-Orleans, will not accomplish fully the object which the two nations propose to themselves, of extinguishing all disagreements. Nevertheless, to give another proof of the deference of his majesty to the wishes of this republic, I agree to enter into negotiation with you on these two points, and to conclude a convention as to them, in which shall be embraced the just reclamations which his majesty shall produce against this government, and the various arrangements he desires to place in it for the encouragement of the commerce between the two nations, and to avoid injuries such as those, which, from the want of explicitness in the last treaty, have been experienced by the respective subjects of both. I will add more, and it is, that the first point to which you refer, being founded in the treaty which exists between the two nations, I will subscribe to it without difficulty; and as to the second, it is of so small an amount, that if I do not succeed in demonstrating to you that these injuries have not existed, or that they are much exaggerated, and that the United States have already admitted that they were satisfied for them, I will have no difficulty even as to them. I ought likewise to observe to you, that it will be easy to include in this same convention or treaty, a provisional arrangement of limits, without detaining us to fix them with exactitude. If the United States do not desire to make an essential change in the established limits, fixed by the treaties of 1763, 1764, 1783, 1795, and 1800, and that this arrangement should only apply to the uncultivated lands to the north of the Missouri, the boundaries of which were never settled between France and Spain, this question might be left for commissioners, named by each party, and their decision might be considered as part of the convention: but, in any case, the most efficient method of concluding these affairs will be, that you should have the goodness to say to me, with frankness, what are the real views of the United States—what are the real and true compensations they are disposed to

offer for the country they desire to obtain from his majesty. You may be assured that I will support, earnestly, proposals that are just and reciprocally convenient, and that, on the return of the courier, I shall be able to sign, under the powers I now have, a treaty mutually satisfactory to both parties, we, in the mean time, agreeing upon all the articles of minor considerations. You cannot but know that the instructions ought to be adapted to the greater or lesser territory of his majesty which the United States may desire to add to their dominions; and that, if they desire none, little difficulty can occur on the subject of indemnities between two powers animated by conciliatory and just sentiments.

I renew to you my respects, &c.

LUIS DE ONIS.

(To be continued.)

NATIONAL LEGISLATURE.

Senate.

Wednesday, Feb. 19.—The senate resumed the consideration of the motion of the 17th inst. for instructing the committee on finance to inquire into the expediency of authorizing the secretary of the treasury to purchase, or cause to be erected, suitable buildings for custom houses and public warehouses, for the safe and convenient collection of the revenue of the United States, and agreed thereto.

Mr. Mason's motion for instructing the committee on finance to report a bill for establishing a bank in the city of Washington, was considered, and postponed indefinitely.

The bill "respecting the transportation of persons of colour for sale, or to be held to labor," was read a third time and passed.

The bill to provide for reports of the decisions of the supreme court (the blank for the annual compensation of the reporter having been filled with one thousand dollars) was read a third time, and passed by the following vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Ashmun, Barbour, Brown, Campbell, Chase, Daggett, Dana, Fromentin, Galliard, Goldsborough, Hanson, Hardin, Horsey, Howell, Hunter, King, Mason of N. H., Mason of Va., Morrow, Noble, Ruggles, Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Talbot, Tait, Taylor, Thompson, Tichenor, Troup.—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Condit, Lacock, Macon, Roberts, Varnum, Wilson.—6.

Mr. Chace, from the committee on the judiciary, to whom was recommitted the bill to provide for the punishment of crimes and offences within the Indian boundaries, reported the same.

Mr. Fromentin submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the committee on the judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of allowing to the judge of the sixth circuit court of the United States, a sum equal to the salary of the judge of the district court of South-Carolina, for the term of one year, during which time the said circuit judge was compelled, by law, to perform the duties of the judge of said district court.

Mr. Chace, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill in addition to the act "for the more convenient taking affidavits and bail in the civil causes depending in the courts of the U. States," and a bill to divide the state of Pennsylvania into two judicial districts; and both bills were read.

Two or three bills from the house of representatives were read a second time and committed.

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Mr. Goldsborough submitted the following motion:

Resolved; That the president of the United States be requested to cause to be reported to the senate, at the next session of Congress, such measures as he may deem most effectual for the security of the country watered by the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary streams, against the maritime force of an enemy.

The senate resumed the consideration of a bill respecting persons escaping from the service of their masters."

On motion of Mr. Talbot, that the further consideration thereof be postponed to to-morrow week, it was decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Barbour, Brown, Campbell, Condit, Daggett, Davis, Fromentin, Galliard, Goldsborough, Hardin, Hunter, King, Macon, Mason, of Va. Sanford, Smith, Stokes, Talbot, Tait, Thompson, Troup—21.

NAYS—Messrs. Ashmun, Chase, Hanson, Horsey, Howell, Lacock, Morrow, Noble, Roberts, Ruggles, Taylor, Tichenor, Varum, Wilson—14.

The committee of finance were discharged from the further consideration of the memorials of the Bank of the Metropolis, and of the Patriotic and Central Banks in this district; and they were referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

The bill to incorporate the Columbian Institute was, on motion of Mr. Wilson, postponed indefinitely.

The bill to establish a territorial government for the eastern part of the Mississippi Territory, was ordered to a third reading.

After the consideration of executive business, the senate adjourned.

Thursday, Feb. 20.—Mr. Mason of Va. presented the petition of the Union Bank of Alexandria, asking for a charter; and of the Farmers' Bank of Alexandria, praying for an extenuation of their charter; which were referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

Mr. Tait, from the naval committee, made an unfavorable report on the memorial of Edward Shubrick and other officers of the late United States brig Chippewa.

The motion of Mr. Goldsborough, yesterday submitted, was postponed indefinitely.

The motion yesterday submitted by Mr. Williams, calling for papers respecting Spanish affairs, was considered and agreed to.

The motion yesterday submitted by Mr. Fromentin was considered and agreed to.

The reports of the committee of claims made on yesterday, were considered and agreed to.

The bill from the house of representatives, "concerning the navigation of the U. States," was considered, amended, and ordered to a third reading.

The bill to set apart and dispose of certain lands for the encouragement of the cultivation of the vine and other exotic plants, was considered and ordered to be read a third time—29 yeas to 5 nays. [Those who voted in the negative were Messrs. Daggett, Hardin, Mason of N. H. Ruggles, and Smith.]

Friday, Feb. 21.—Mr. Williams reported, from the military committee, a bill to secure in certain cases the bounty in land to the heirs of deceased soldiers.

Mr. Campbell, from the committee on finance, reported a bill to continue in force an act further to provide for the collection of duties on imports and tonnage, passed the 3d March, 1815, and for other purposes.

Mr. Chace reported a bill providing additional compensation to the circuit judge of the sixth circuit of the United States.

Mr. Campbell reported the general appropriation bill with amendments.

The report yesterday made by Mr. Tait was considered and agreed to.

The bill to establish a separate territorial government in the eastern part of the Mississippi territory, was read a third time and passed.

The bill to encourage the cultivation of the vine and other exotics, was read a third time and passed.

The bill concerning the navigation of the United States, was read a third time and passed.

[The amendments to this bill yet require the concurrence of the other house.]

The proposition to reduce the army to five thousand men was resumed, but on motion of Mr. Williams it was further postponed to Monday.

The consideration of the bill to preserve more effectually the neutral relations of the United States with foreign powers, was resumed; when, on motion of Mr. Barbour, the bill was recommitted to the committee of foreign relations.

The senate then resumed the consideration of the bill to provide for the appointment of hospital surgeons and hospital surgeon's mates in the navy of the United States; which was postponed indefinitely.

Saturday, Feb. 22.—Mr. Williams, from the military committee, reported a bill to amend the act organizing a general staff, and making further provision for the army of the United States.

Mr. Tait, agreeably to notice, leave being given, introduced a bill to alter the time for the next meeting of congress.

The bill to set apart certain lands for the purpose of securing a supply of live oak timber for the navy, was resumed, and ordered to a third reading, as were two or three other small bills.

The bill from the other house, directing the application of the bonus and profits of the United States stock in the national bank, to the purpose of internal improvement, was set apart and made the order of the day for Tuesday next.

Monday, Feb. 24.—Mr. Wilson, from the committee on post roads, reported a bill to establish post roads.

Mr. Hardin also, by leave, introduced a bill to prevent the discontinuance of the business before the supreme court, in certain cases.

The following bills were severally read a third time and passed :

A bill to provide for the punishment of crimes and offences committed within the Indian boundaries. [On this bill the vote by yeas and nays, was 17 to 13.]

A bill making reservation of certain public lands to supply timber for naval purposes.

A bill to authorize the appointment of a surveyor for the land in the northern part of the Mississippi territory, and the sale of certain lands therein described.

A bill authorizing vessels departing from the town of Bayou St. John, and the basin of the canal de Carondelet, for foreign ports, to clear out at the custom house in the city of New-Orleans.

A bill in addition to an act for the more convenient taking of affidavits and bail in civil cases, depending in the courts of the United States.

A bill to divide the state of Pennsylvania into two judicial districts.

A bill for the relief of the legal representatives of John I. Yarnall.

A bill supplementary to the act concerning the naval establishment.

A bill for the relief of Park Holland.

A bill relating to the ransom of American captives in the late war.

The bill more effectually to preserve our neutral relations, was reported by Mr. Barbour, from the committee on foreign relations, with sundry amendments.

Several reports from different departments were laid before the Senate; and a short time was spent in the consideration of executive business.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, Feb. 20.—Mr. T. Wilson, from the committee on roads and canals, made a further report, which was read; and Mr. W. reported a bill to authorize the secretary of the treasury to subscribe, in behalf of the United States, for shares in the capital stock of certain canal companies therein mentioned; which was twice read and committed.

The speaker laid before the House a letter from the acting secretary of war, transmitting the information required by the resolution of the 15th instant, relative to a mutiny in the late 38th regiment of infantry: which was read.

The speaker also laid before the House a letter from the acting secretary of war, transmitting information relative to the claims of the State of Massachusetts, for payment of the expenses of the militia, ordered out by the executive authority of that State, during the late war; which was ordered to lie on the table.

The speaker also laid before the House a letter from the post master general, transmitting a list of the unproductive post routes; which was referred to the committee on that subject.

On motion of Mr. Goldsborough,

Resolved, That the committee on commerce and manufactures, be instructed to inquire whether any, and if any, what measures may be necessary to be adopted in consequence of the great failure of the corn crops in the last year.

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be reported to the next session of Congress, such measures as he may deem most effectual for the security of the country watered by the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary streams, against the maritime force of an enemy.

The House then proceeded to the order of the day, on the resolution to repeal the internal duties.

Mr. Sheffey withdrew a motion he had previously made to amend the resolve, so as to read nearly as follows: "Resolved, That the army shall be reduced to six thousand men, and the acts laying internal duties, &c. be repealed."

Mr. Jackson made a motion to lay the resolution on the table.

This motion was opposed by Messrs. Desha, Hardin, and King, and supported by Mr. Hulbert. On the one hand it was said that the proposition was one of great importance, on which every one had made up their minds and were probably ready to decide. On the other hand the importance of the subject was admitted, but the possibility of deciding it definitely at the present session, either one way or the other, was denied.

The yeas and nays having been required on the motion, some gentlemen expressed other reasons for their votes.

The question for laying the resolution on the table was negatived—ayes 77, nays 88.

Mr. Hulbert spoke in opposition to the repeal, on the broadest grounds.

Mr. Forsyth conceiving that it must now be obvious to every gentleman, that no result could flow from this proposition, at the present session, moved, to try the sense of the House, to postpone the resolution to a day beyond the session.

And on motion, after some conversation, it was decided in the negative, ayes 77, nays 88.

Mr. Pickens moved to amend the resolution by adding to the end of it these words—"and the duty on salt," so as to repeat that duty also.

This proposition gave rise to much debate, in which Mr. Kilbourne spoke at considerable length, in opposition to the amendment, but in favor of the main proposition.

The question on the proposed amendment was decided in the affirmative, ayes 91, nays 67.

Mr. Forsyth spoke decidedly against the passage of the resolution, as well because of the state of the country and of our finances, as of the impolicy of annihilating entirely the system of internal duties.

Mr. Mills moved to amend the resolution so as to make it provide that the duties on brown sugar, coffee, bohea, and souchong teas, imported spirits, and one or two other articles, should be reduced one half.

And the House adjourned.

Friday, Feb. 21.—Mr. Hugh Nelson, from the committee on the judiciary, reported a bill respecting the district court of the United States in the northern district of New-York.

Mr. Chappell, from the committee on pensions and revolutionary claims, reported a bill directing the transfer of unclaimed pensions, and limiting their payment at the treasury only.

These bills were severally twice read and committed.

Mr. Hulbert, from the select committee to whom the petition of the Berkshire Agricultural Association had been referred, reported a bill to establish a National Board of Agriculture; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Johnson, of Kentucky, from the committee on military affairs, made reports adverse to the propriety of allowing bounty to soldiers who enlisted prior to the commencement of the late war; to the expediency of allowing extra pay and bounty to the representatives of such soldiers as died before being mustered in their regiment; also on the propriety of making further provision for military services during the late war, which subjects had been committed to the consideration of the committee. The reports were all ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee of foreign relations, reported a bill to regulate the trade in Plaster of Paris; which was twice read and (after an unsuccessful motion by Mr. F. that the bill be ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, and not to take the usual course of going through a committee of the whole house, which motion was opposed by Messrs. Little, Smith of Md. Burwell and Ross, as being too summary a course for the great importance of the subject, and supported by Messrs. Forsyth and King,) the bill was committed to a committee of the whole house.

Mr. Jackson offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That a committee be appointed on the part of the House of Representatives, to notify the hon. James Monroe of his election to the

office of President of the United States for the ensuing four years; and that the speaker of the house cause a similar notice to be given to the hon. Daniel D. Tompkins of his election to the office of Vice-President of the United States for the same term.

The resolution being read, was agreed to, and a committee appointed accordingly.

On motion of Mr. Yates, the committee on the post-office and post-roads were instructed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a post route from the town of Madison to the post-office at Sullivan, by the way of Peterborough, in New-York.

Mr. M'Lean made an unsuccessful motion to take up the bill to open and cut a road from the Tennessee line through the Chickasaw country, &c.

The house next proceeded to the order of the day on the proposition to repeal the internal taxes.

The question first under consideration was to reduce the duty on brown sugar, coffee, bohea and souchong teas, imported spirits, and one or two other articles, one half.

Mr. Mills opposed the general repeal contemplated by the original resolution, and advocated his amendment; expressing his reasons at large for approving a steady but moderate system of internal taxation, as well a direct tax on lands, &c. as others, and particularly on ardent spirits and articles of luxury. When he had concluded,

Mr. Thomas, of Ten. for the purpose of coming to a decision on the question, and foreseeing no termination to the present discussion, demanded the previous question on the resolution.

The question was then put, "shall the previous question be now taken?" and decided in the negative—ayes 36.

Mr. Thomas then moved that the resolution be postponed to the 2d day of March; which was decided in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adgate, Alexander, Archer, Atherton, Baker, Barbour, Bassett, Bateman, Bennett, Betts, Birdseye, Breckinridge, Caldwell, Calhoun, Carr, Ms. Chappell, Clark, N. Y. Clark, N. C. Condit, Conner, Creighton, Crocheron, Findley, Forney, Forsyth, Gaston, Gold, Griffin, Hahn, Harrison, Heister, Hopkinson, Huger, Hubert, Ingham, Irving, N. Y. Jackson, Johnson, Ky., Kent, Kerr, Va. Little, Lowndes, Lumpkin, M'Lean, Middleton, Miller, Mills, Milnor, Jer. Nelson, Thos. M. Nelson, Newton, Ormsby, Pickering, Pleasants, Rice, Robertson, Ross, Ruggles, Savage, Schenck, Smith, Penn, Southard, Stearns, Taggart, Tallmadge, Taul, Taylor, N. Y. Taylor, S. C. Telfair, Thomas, Townsend, Ward, Ms. Webster, Wenvorder, Wilde, Wilkin, Willoughby, Thos. Wilson, Woodward, Yancey, Yates—82.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Baylies, Birdsall, Blount, Boss, Bradbury, Bryan, Burwell, Cady, Cannon, Champion, Clay, Clayton, Clemenmin, Comstock, Cook, Cooper, Crawford, Cuipperer, Davenport, Desha, Dickens, Edwards, Fletcher, Godshorugh, Hale, Henderson, Hendricks, Herbert, Hooks, Hungford, Jewett, Johnson, Va., Kibboun, King, Landgon, Lane, Lewis, Love, Lyle, Lyon, Wm., Macay, Wm. P. Macay, Marsh, Mason, McCoy, McKee, Moffitt, Moore, Moseley, Hugo, Ne son, Noyes, Parvis, Peter, Pickens, Piper, Powell, Reed, Roane, Sharp, Smith, Va., Strong, Stuart, Sturges, Tyier, Yer, Wallace, Ward, N. Y. Ward, N. J. Wheaton, Whiteside, Wiggs, Williams—73.

The following bills from the Senate, viz: the bill to establish a separate territorial government for the eastern part of the Mississippi territory; the bill to provide for reporting the decisions of the supreme court; the bill respecting the transportation of persons of color, for sale, or to be held to labor; and the bill to set apart and dispose of certain public lands for the encouragement of the cultivation of the vine and the olive; were severally twice read and referred; and

The amendments of the Senate to the bill con-

cerning the navigation of the United States, were read and referred.

The following engrossed bills were severally read the third time, passed and sent to the Senate for concurrence, to wit: the bill making provision for the support of the military establishment of the United States for the year 1817; the bill making additional appropriations to defray the expenses of the army and militia during the late war; the bill making appropriations for the support of the navy for the year 1817; the bill freeing from postage, hereafter, all letters and packets to and from James Madison; the bill supplementary to the act further to amend the several acts for the establishment of the treasury, war, and navy departments; the bill to repeal the act providing for the safe keeping and accommodation of prisoners of war; the bill concerning the compensation of the district attorney for the district of Massachusetts; and the bill to authorize the extension of the Columbian turnpike within the District of Columbia.

The house then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Jackson in the chair, on the bill concerning invalid pensioners, and the bill granting a pension to Com. Richard Taylor; which, having been considered and gone through, were reported to the house with amendments; and, with the amendments, severally ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The house proceeded to consider the report of the committee of the whole house, made some days ago, on sundry bills connected with different branches of the military establishment.

The one first taken up, was the bill authorizing the establishment of a national armory on the Ohio river or its branches.

After a considerable discussion, a motion was made to postpone the bill indefinitely, and carried—ayes 70.

The reports were next called up on the bill to amend the act making further provision for military services during the late war; on the bill respecting the pay and emoluments of brevet officers; and on the bill concerning the invalids of the revolutionary war, and the widows and children of the militia and of the soldiers of the army during the late war. The two first bills were ordered to be engrossed for a third reading; and some discussion ensuing on the details of the bill last named, a motion was made to postpone the same indefinitely.

Saturday, Feb. 22.—The committee of claims were discharged from the further consideration of all the petitions and other matters, referred to them at this session, on which they had not reported.

Mr. Ingham, from the committee on the post office and post roads, reported a bill to alter and establish certain post roads; which was twice read and committed.

Mr. Forsyth, from the committee on foreign relations, reported their agreement to the amendments made by the Senate to the bill concerning the navigation of the United States, and they were then concurred in by the House.

Mr. Cannon moved that the several orders of the day be postponed to Monday, and that the House proceed to the consideration of the resolution offered by him some weeks ago, to reduce the army; which motion was negatived,—ayes 39, nays 69.

The following engrossed bills were severally

read a third time, passed, and sent to the Senate, to wit:

The bill concerning invalid pensioners.

The bill to amend the act making further provision for military services during the late war; and

The bill concerning the pay and emoluments of brevet officers.

The bill from the Senate for the relief of commodore Richard Taylor, was read the third time, as amended by the committee, and passed.

The House then took up the bill concerning invalids of the revolutionary war, and of the widows and children of the militia, and of the soldiers of the army during the late war, as reported by the committee of the whole—the motion made yesterday by Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. to postpone the bill indefinitely, being under consideration.

This motion gave rise to considerable discussion, in which Messrs. Jackson, Edwards, Johnson, Ky. Harrison, and Comstock, opposed the postponement; and Messrs. Hardin and Taylor, N. Y. supported it. The motion was finally decided in the affirmative, and the bill indefinitely postponed.

On motion of Mr. Reynolds, the House took up the bill for opening and cutting a road from the Tennessee line through the Chickasaw country, &c. and after some opposition, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Goldsborough, from the committee appointed on the 20th instant, to present a resolution to the President of the United States, requesting him to report to the next session of Congress the best practicable mode of defending the waters of the Chesapeake, reported that the committee had performed that duty, and that the President answered it would not be in his power to comply with the request of the resolution, but that he had no doubt his successor would pay all due attention to it.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Condict in the chair, on the bill to amend the act granting bounties in land to certain Canadian volunteers. [Providing that no bounty shall be given to any of the said volunteers, except where it shall appear they have served the full term of — months, and whose name shall appear on the muster roll of the said corps, except prevented by wounds received in battle, &c. and instead of the mode of granting the bounty directed by the former act, to allow a bounty of — acres agreeably to rank.]

After much discussion and the adoption of various amendments, the committee rose and reported the bill, which was then ordered to be engrossed as amended.

The same committee of the whole reported, without amendment, the bill granting donations of land to the disbanded officers of the late army, and then the bill was, on motion of Mr. Cannon, laid on the table.

After an attempt, by Mr. Yancey, which he afterwards withdrew, to discharge the committee of the whole House from the further consideration of the bills to establish an invalid corps, and for authorizing additional military academies, for the purpose of having them laid on the table,

The House adjourned.

*Monday, Feb. 24.—*Mr. Lowndes, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill supplementary to "an act to regulate the duties on imports and tonnage;" which was read and ordered to be read a second time to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. Harrison,

Resolved, That the secretary of war be and he is hereby instructed to report to this house, at their next session, the number and conditions of the contracts which have been made for the supply of arms for the United States since the adoption of the present constitution, specifying the loss, if any, which the public have sustained by the non-fulfilment of such contracts, or by the advance of money on account of the same; together with any other information he may possess, tending to show the advantages or disadvantages attending that mode of obtaining arms, compared with that of national armories, and that he report therewith the amount of money expended in each of the present national armories, the number and species of arms there manufactured, and the number and species of arms repaired.

On motion of Mr. Smith, of Md. it was agreed that a joint committee of both houses be appointed to examine and report to their respective houses what business is pending before them, and which it is indispensable to act upon previous to the adjournment; and Messrs. Smith of Md. and Yancey were appointed on the part of this House.

The committee of the whole, to whom were committed the bill for the establishment of an invalid corps, and the bill making provision for three additional military academies, were discharged therefrom; and the said bills were postponed indefinitely.

The bills from the Senate "to enable the people of the western part of the Mississippi territory to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states," passed through a committee of the whole, and was reported to the house; whereupon,

A motion was made by Mr. Pickens to strike out all the said bill after the enacting clause, and in lieu thereof to insert the bill reported by a select committee of this house on the 17th ult. for the admission of the whole territory into the Union as a state; which motion was negatived.

A motion was then made by Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. that the said bill, and the whole subject, be postponed indefinitely; which motion was decided in the negative.

For the motion	62
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Against it	80
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A motion was then made by Mr. Taylor, of N. Y. to amend the bill by incorporating therein the following provision:

"And that in case the said convention shall form a constitution and state government, for the people of the said territory of Mississippi, the said convention, as soon thereafter as may be, is hereby required to cause to be transmitted to Congress a true and attested copy of such constitution or frame of state government as shall be formed and provided by the said convention, and if the same be not disapproved by Congress at its next session, after the receipt thereof, the said state shall be admitted into the Union upon the same footing with the original states."

This motion was negatived, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

The bill from the Senate "to provide for the purchase and distribution of the laws of the United States," and the bill "for the relief of the legal representatives of Francis Cazeau, late merchant at Montreal," were severally twice read and committed.

The following bills, which originated in this House, were severally read a third time and passed:

A bill to amend the act, entitled "An act granting bounties in land and extra pay to certain Canadian volunteers," passed on the 5th March, 1816.

A bill "for the relief of certain officers;" and

A bill "making an appropriation for opening and cutting out a road therein described."

The bill "to establish an uniform system of bankruptcy," was indefinitely postponed.

The bill to authorize the settlement and payment of certain claims for the services of the militia, passed through a committee of the whole, and was ordered to lie on the table.

The bills which are stated above as having passed the Senate on this day, which had not previously passed this House, were twice read and committed, except the bill for the relief of the representatives of John I. Yarnall, which was read a third time and passed.

The House spent some time in committee of the whole on sundry bills of a private nature, but did not finally act on them before an adjournment took place.

CAPTAIN BLAKELEY.

The best authority enables me to state, (says the editor of the Raleigh, N. C. Star) that several of our officers, now in the Mediterranean, have made the most careful investigations respecting the disappearance of the Wasp; and that no doubt remains in their mind of Blakeley being the commander who encountered the British frigate which put into Cadiz some time in September, 1814, dreadfully shattered. It will be remembered that the Wasp captured the Reindeer on the 28th June, 1814. After putting into L'Orient for repairs, &c. she set sail on the 27th August, and on the 1st September encountered a convoy of 10 sail, in charge of the Armada 74, and succeeded in cutting off one ship.

The same evening she discovered four vessels, two on each bow; and successively encountered two of these brigs. The first of them struck after a severe engagement, but the second approached too speedily to permit the Wasp to take possession of her prize. The circumstance of there being no other American vessel near that latitude at that time, and the action with the British frigate taking place a few nights afterwards, with the report of the enemy, that though the night was calm, there was no appearance of the adversary in the morning, leave little room in the mind of our officers to doubt that the Wasp had another battle early in September, and that she fought the frigate until so disabled as to fall off and sink! These, we confess, are our impressions, and we consider this one of the most illustrious exploits performed by any of the officers of our navy. North-Carolina, then, has cause to be proud of her distinguished son, yet to weep bitter tears, as he was cut off in the morning of his fame, and from the service of an admiring nation. The following is a resolution of the general assembly:

NORTH-CAROLINA.

In Senate, Dec. 27, 1816.

Be it unanimously resolved, by the Senate and House of Commons of the General Assembly of North-Carolina, That his excellency the governor be requested to forward to Mrs. Blakeley the sword

which was directed by the General Assembly of 1814 to be presented to her husband, together with a copy of their resolution on the subject: and to express to Mrs. Blakeley the deep interest which this legislature will always take in her happiness and welfare.

Resolved further, That Capt. Blakeley's child be educated at the expense of this State; and that Mrs. Blakeley be requested to draw on the treasurer of this State, from time to time, for such sums of money as shall be required for the education of the said child.

Resolved, That his excellency the governor be requested to forward to Mrs. Blakeley a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

Unanimously concurred with by both Houses.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman at St. Louis to his friend in Virginia, dated Louis, (M. S.) Dec. 16, 1816.

"Our crops are very abundant this year; but the multitude of emigrants gives a good price to the farmer. Our lead mines have yielded largely. Mr. Smith, brother to the general, has derived upwards of \$20,000 from his mine this year, of clear profits, at the rate of 1-5th of what his miners discovered and raised. The fur traders have gone out in great numbers—not only the Upper Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois, are covered with, but even the Rio grande del Norte, above Santa Fee is laid under contribution. A company from this town have gone there under the passport of the Spanish governor of New Mexico. And to facilitate our commercial transactions, we have established two banks, chiefly bottomed on metallic capitals. They are styled the "St. Louis Bank," and the "Bank of Missouri."

"We have had here, this fall, the Lieutenant Gen. Lefebvre Desnoettes. He was struck with the grand features of this country, particularly the length of the rivers. Seeing some vessels from the lakes, he inquired minutely how they got there, and exclaimed "What a wonderful river, communicating with the sea by the head and the mouth!" He went to the Mammes, was enchanted, and went back at the break of day to enjoy, from that celestial spot, the beautiful spectacle of the rising sun.

"Thence he went to Portage des Sioux, and breakfasted with Madame S—, a French woman. Seeing the house filled with children, he asked how many she had? The lady answered, "nineteen now!" "And how many did she have?" "Two and twenty!" "And where had she lived all this while?" "In Portage des Sioux!" Upon which the general remarked, that her husband was a good companion, and that our country would soon be peopled at that rate. He has gone to New-Orleans, but purposes to return here with many other emigrants. A French emigrant officer, nephew to Le Clerc, Duc de Feltre, is now here practising law."

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC SUMMARY.

FOREIGN.

Since our last there has been several arrivals from England at different ports in the United States, which bring English papers up to the 24th of December. The most important intelligence they contain, is the continuance of the distresses

in England. There was a meeting at Spa-fields on the 2d December, which it is said consisted of 20,000 persons. The orator, who first appeared, was one Smith, who ascended a wagon decorated with flags and a cautionary inscription, exhorting the people not to do the military any violence if they should appear. In his harangue he observed, "the ministers have trifled with our liberties, and have refused to grant the people their rights. Will you take them? (*Yes, yes, from the multitude.*) Will you go and demand them? (*Yes, yes, yes.*) If I jump down will you follow me?" *Yes, yes,* was repeated. He immediately leaped down and proceeded towards the city, and was followed by the multitude—the fragments of windows, lamps, &c. marked their path—they entered three or four gun shops by violence, and emptied them of their contents. They shot a Mr. Platt, a factor, in the groin, inflicting, it was feared, a mortal wound. Much rioting took place, and the mob was eventually dispersed by the military and civil authorities. At four o'clock the following official notice was placarded in the principal streets, the shops throughout which was closed:

"Our Sovereign Lord the King"

"Commandeth and chargeth all persons being assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of king George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies.

"God save the King."

On the 15th November there was a meeting at Spa-fields, and a petition was agreed on to be presented to the Prince Regent. Mr. H. Hunt was appointed to present the petition. He waited on Col. M'Mahon at Carlton House, to ascertain the time and place his royal highness would be graciously pleased to receive the petition, and was answered that the prince would only receive a petition at a *levee*, or through the secretary of state for the home department. A correspondence ensued between Mr. H. and Lord Sidmouth. At the meeting of the 2d December, Mr. H. made his appearance and harangued the multitude; in which he adverted to the petition above alluded to, and congratulated his audience upon the good effects their assembling had already produced, since it had occasioned his royal highness to grant 5,000*l.* out of the funds of his majesty for the relief of the necessitous. But, he continued, that the prince had not gone to the extent of the implied prayer of the petition; which was, to bestow on the inhabitants of the metropolis 2 or 300,000*l.* out of the civil list, and not to follow the advice of a corrupt minister, who had persuaded him to apply 5,000*l.* out of the droits of the admiralty, which belonged to the sailors. He continued, by advising a perseverance, and moved a number of resolutions; and after they were read, he proposed a petition to parliament, and that Lord Cochran and Sir Francis Burdett present it to the House of Commons as soon as it shall be assembled; and the meeting was adjourned to the 2d Monday after the assembling of parliament. On the 9th December the lord mayor, aldermen, and the common council assembled, drafted a petition to the Prince Regent, enumerating the causes which had led to the present distresses, and prayed that parliament might be assembled as soon as possible—that measures be recommended for the relief of the country; to which his royal highness

condescended to reply. Placards were posted up and distributed about the streets of London; on which it is stated, that in "the present state of Great Britain, four millions are in distress, four millions embarrassed, one million and a half in distress, and *half* a million live in splendid luxury." That country must indeed be miserable where only one person in twenty are comfortable.

Lord Wellington had returned suddenly from Paris, which occasioned some speculations—the reasons are not stated.

London papers mention several arrivals there from the United States, bringing back British manufacturers.

A deluge has happened on the frontiers of China, at Kiachta. The disaster produced by the inundation surpasses any thing ever seen in these countries.

The emperor of Russia is expected to be present at the opening of the Polish Congress, which will ratify the new code of legislation.

France.—A proposition has been submitted to the Chamber of Peers, that, in future, the Chamber will not hear written speeches, except reports of commissions and motions. Under the present regulation of reading speeches, business goes on heavily: none reply immediately—sometimes three weeks elapses before an answer is given to a speech, and not half of them are written by the speaker. A person advertises in a French paper to write speeches *pro and con.* He was, on one occasion, employed by members of different parties, one a *citra*, and the other an *ultra.* By mistake, however, he delivered the wrong one to each, so that when the *citra* mounted the tribune, he began a speech against himself, and *vice versa* the *ultra* did the same.

DOMESTIC.

Maj. Gen. BROWN, Maj. Gen. SCOTT, Gen. MILLER, Gen. SWIFT, Col. WOOL, Col. GARDNER, Col. MULLANY, Col. MILLER, Col. SNELLING, Maj. REESE and Maj. LONG, all of the army, and Com. BAINGRIDGE of the navy, are now in this city.

The minister of Denmark to the United States (M. Pederson) arrived in this city on Tuesday last, and is now here.

The weather.—The papers from every part of the country speak of the extreme severity of the past winter.

DANL. D. TOMPKINS has resigned the office of governor of the state of New-York, in consequence of being elected Vice-President of the United States.

Specie payments.—The banks in the principal cities resumed the payment of specie on the 20th ult. and many of the country banks also.

The canal commissioners have made their report to the legislature of New-York. They give the extent and probable expense of the Erie Canal as follows:

	Miles.	Dollars.
From Buffalo to Tonewanta Creek,	27	205,877
Thence to Seneca River,	136	1,550,985
Thence to Rome,	77	833,186
Thence to Schoharie Creek,	71	1,090,603
Thence to the Hudson River,	42	1,106,087
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	353	4,806,738

The letter of Jehu Chandler, Esq., in reply to D. in our last number, has been received, but too late for insertion this week. He denies having required of Congress 20,000 dollars in advance to enable himself and partner to execute the monopoly asked for.